

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2017

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

We write with concern regarding U.S. policy toward Hamas and its financial supporters. On October 30, 2017, you met with the Emir of Qatar and Qatari officials to announce that the United States and Qatar would be “taking joint actions against terrorist financiers.” The joint statement released by the Treasury Department following your meeting noted our two countries’ commitment to a “sustained and enduring campaign to counter terrorist financing, with a strong emphasis on threats posed by Hizballah, al-Qaida, the Nusrah Front, ISIS, and other terrorist organizations.”

We are deeply concerned that this joint statement omitted any mention of Hamas, a heinous terrorist network responsible for the murders of innocent American and Israeli citizens, which has been designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the State Department since 1997. As you know, Doha has been a sanctuary to Hamas terrorist officials, including the Hamas leader Khaled Mashal, and Qatari citizens have a well-established history of financing this group. Just one day after your visit, the Qatari Foreign Ministry condemned Israel - our vital ally and a U.S. partner on tunnel detection and cooperative defense - for killing five Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists and two Hamas terrorists in a strike on deadly tunnels in Gaza. Furthermore, Qatar’s media subsidiary, Al-Jazeera, has been used to incite Palestinian terror and violent extremism in the region and sought cooperation with Iran, a country that provides more than \$800 million annually to Hezbollah and its media arm Al-Manar, which the U.S. Department of the Treasury designated as a global terrorist entity in 2006.

As state sponsors of terror such as Iran renew their financial support for Hamas, it is critical that the United States isolate and counter Hamas by cutting the terrorist organization off at its source. We are also deeply concerned that since 2015, the Treasury Department has not announced the addition of any individuals or entities affiliated with Hamas to the Office of Foreign Asset Control’s Specially Designated Nationals list. U.S. cooperation with allies in the Gulf region to counter illicit financing and support for terrorism must rely on more than just promises or assurances. We must have clear and verifiable steps to crack down on financial support for all terrorist organizations, especially Hamas.

To reassure Congress of the efficacy of the July 2017 U.S.-Qatar Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), we respectfully request that you provide our offices with additional information, including specific and measurable steps that Qatar has taken to cut off Hamas since the signing of the agreement. We further request information on how the Administration plans to enforce the MOU, what standards and deadlines have been established for Qatar to make improvements, and what the consequences will be if terrorists' accounts at financial institutions and other sources of revenue are not shut down.

Finally, as the Treasury Department helped establish and inaugurate the Terrorist Financing Targeting Center (TFTC), co-chaired by the United States, we request that you provide us with an initial assessment of the TFTC's progress, how the Center has been or will be used to target the financiers of Hamas, and how Qatar is able to participate in and cooperate with the Center during the Gulf countries' internal crisis.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to your prompt reply.

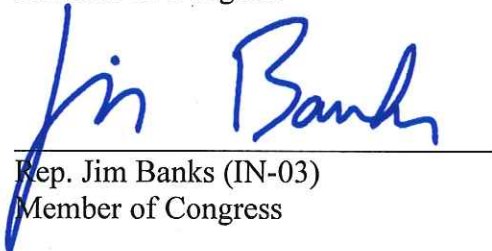
Sincerely,



Rep. Josh Gottheimer (NJ-05)
Member of Congress



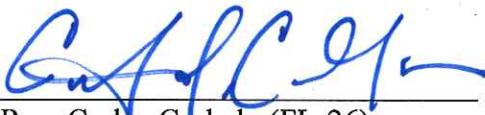
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Member of Congress



Rep. Jim Banks (IN-03)
Member of Congress



Rep. Ted Budd (NC-13)
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Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25)
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Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX-01)
Member of Congress



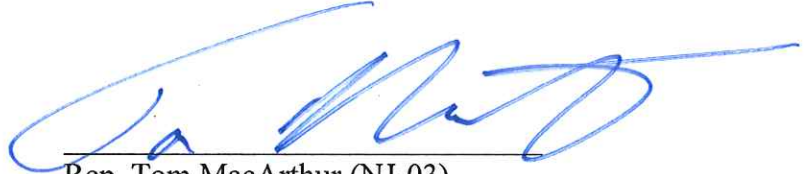
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Member of Congress



Rep. French Hill (AR-02)
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Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO-05)
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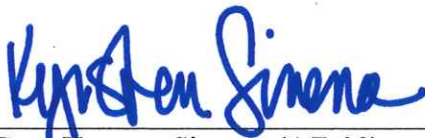
Rep. Martha McSally (AZ-02)
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